

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 01494 271738Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /060 W  
-----052570 271741Z /47

O R 271710Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2995  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY NGUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SG, SHUM  
SUBJECT: SENGHOR MAINTAINING COMFORTABLE LEAD IN CALM SENEGALESE  
ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 26 SENEGALESE ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE  
IN GENERALLY CALM ATMOSPHERE. WITH 26 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE  
ACCOUNTED FOR, PRESIDENT SENGHOR IS LEADING CHALLENGER  
ABDOULAYE WADE BY 78 PERCENT TO 18 PERCENT OF VOTES CAST.  
WADE'S PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE SENEGALAIS (PDS) HAS DONE BEST  
IN LOCALITIES WHERE GOVERNING PARTI SOCIALISTE (PS) HAD  
BEEN SPLIT BY FACTIONAL QUARRELS. OVERALL RESULTS APPEAR  
SO FAR TO BE ABOUT AS EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. RETURNS ARE CURRENTLY BEING TABULATED FOR PRESIDENTIAL,  
LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT IN  
SENEGAL FEBRUARY 26. MEDIA REPORT THAT POLLING TOOK  
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 01494 271738Z

PLACE PEACEFULLY WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT. PRE-  
ANNOUNCED NATIONWIDE BAN ON VEHICULAR CIRCULATION ON  
ELECTION DAY WAS WELL OBSERVED DESPITE ABSENCE OF  
SIGNIFICANT POLICE SURVEILLANCE OF PUBLIC ROADWAYS, AT  
LEAST IN DAKAR ENVIRONS. DESERTED STREETS CONTRIBUTED  
TO ATMOSPHERE OF CALM AND ORDER WHICH PREVAILED AT  
POLLING PLACES OBSERVED BY EMBOFFS AND OTHER

DIPLOMATS. SENEGAL TELEVISION AND RADIO REMAINED ON THE AIR FAR INTO NIGHT TO CARRY FRAGMENTARY EARLY RETURNS FROM ACROSS COUNTRY.

3. AS OF MID-DAY FEBRUARY 27, RADIO SENEGAL REPORTS THAT, WITH COMMUNES ACCOUNTING FOR 26 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORATE TABULATED, PRESIDENT SENGHOR IS LEADING OPPOSITION CHALLENGER ABDOULAYE WADE BY 78 PERCENT (198,000 VOTES) TO 19 PERCENT (47,000VOTES). PARTY SHARES IN LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL BALLOTING APPEAR SO FAR TO BE RUNNING AT LEVELS ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN PRESIDENTIAL COMPETITION.

4. AS EXPECTED, WADE'S PDS IS DOING BEST IN REAS WHERE INTERNAL FACTIONAL STRIFE HAD SPLIT LOCAL PS LEADERSHIP (SEE DAKAR A-15). IN OUSSOUYE DEPARTMENT OF CASAMANCE REGION, WHERE INCUMBENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY REJECTED BY PS ORGANIZATION RAN AS PDS CANDIDATE, OPPOSITION HAS REPORTEDLY SWEEPED PRESIDENTIAL, LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL VOTE. LESS SPECTACULARLY, WADE TOOK 24 PERCENT OF VOTE IN LOUGA, PRIME MINISTER DIOUF'S HOMETOWN AND ANOTHER AREAN OF BITTER INTERNECINE PS STRUGGLES.

5. MAHJMOUT DIOP'S MARXIST-LENINIST PARTI AFRICAINE DE L'INDEPENDENCE (PAI), WHICH IS NOT CONTESTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, APPEARS TO BE GAINING ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 01494 271738Z

NEGLECTIBLE NUMBER OF VOTES IN LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL CONTESTS.

6. BIGGEST QUESTIONMARK MAY REVOLVE AROUND VOTER TURNOUT, SINCE UNRECOGNIZED LEFTIST POLITICAL GROUPS HAD URGED VOTERS TO STAY HOME ON ELECTION DAY. AT PRESENT STAGE OF PRESIDENTIAL RETURNS, IT APPEARS THAT ABOUT 62 PERCENT OF THOSE REGISTERED HAVE VOTED, WHICH GOVERNMENT AND DISSIDENT OPPOSITION WOULD PROBABLY BOTH VIEW AS VINDICATION.

7. MEDIA ARE TAKING IMMENSE SATISFACTION WITH CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, WITH DAKAR DAILY LE SOLEIL ALREADY EDITORIALIZING THAT "SENEGAL HAS WON A MAJOR GAMBLE: THAT OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPENING WHICH THE ELECTIONS HAVE CONFIRMED AS AN IRREVERSIBLE OPTION."  
COHEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SENGHOR MAINTAINING COMFORTABLE LEAD IN CALM SENEGALESE ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, SHUM, SG, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR), (WADE, ABOULAYE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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